

CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

ORDINANCE NO. 042-2022

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 OF "THE HIGHLAND PARK CODE OF 1968," AS AMENDED, REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 38 of "The Highland Park Code of 1968," as amended ("**City Code**"), establishes and governs the City's system of administrative hearings ("**Administrative Hearing System**"); and

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic forced the City to conduct its administrative hearings remotely by electronic means ("**Remote Hearings**") for more than two years; and

**WHEREAS**, Remote Hearings have improved accessibility for parties and reduced the City's financial and administrative costs of operating the Administrative Hearing System; and

**WHEREAS**, Remote Hearings provide an equivalent opportunity to present testimony, submit evidence, and cross-examine witnesses as would exist in an in-person administrative proceeding; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to amend Chapter 38 of the City Code in order to (i) permit the continuation of Remote Hearings beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, and (ii) set forth procedures for Remote Hearings; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that it will serve and be in the best interest of the City and its residents to amend the City Code pursuant to this Ordinance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HIGHLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS**, as follows:

**SECTION ONE:**     **RECITALS.** The foregoing recitals are incorporated into, and made a part of, this Ordinance as the findings of the City Council.

**SECTION TWO:**     **HEARINGS.** Section 38.009, entitled "Hearings," of Chapter 38, entitled "City Administrative Hearing System," of Title III, entitled "Administration," of the City Code shall be, and is hereby, further amended to add a new subsection 38.009(J), which subsection 38.009(J) shall read as follows:

**"Sec. 38.009.- Hearings.**

\* \* \*

(J) The City may, at its discretion, conduct Hearings remotely by electronic means. Such Remote Hearings shall be conducted pursuant to the rules and procedures set forth in this Section 38.009. The City shall provide all parties of Remote Hearings with instructions to participate.

**SECTION THREE: EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in the manner provided by law.

**AYES:** Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Tapia, Stolberg, Stone, Blumberg, Holleman, Lidawer

**NAYS:** None

**PASSED:** May 09, 2022

**ADOPTED:** May 09, 2022

PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLET FORM: May 10, 2022

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ATTEST:

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Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor

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Ghida S. Neukirch, City Clerk